

Dr. Peterson
SACSCOC Welcome

Tuesday, March 10, 2015

Welcome to Georgia Tech. We are honored that you have taken time from your demanding schedules to participate in this very important reaffirmation process.

Joining us today are Georgia Tech's deans and Cabinet members. We also have a number of other faculty and staff members who have been engaged in the SACS process. You will be meeting with a number of them this week. We are also honored to have with us today Houston Davis from the University System of Georgia Board of Regents office, and Regent Dean Alford.

I'm sure you've heard that we are hosting President Obama on campus today. I told him you were coming today, and had planned the visit more than a year ago, but the White House just couldn't rearrange the President's schedule! Actually, we thought you might be quite impressed and are hoping that we get bonus points in your final report.

It is interesting to note that today's visit by President Obama continues a tradition of Presidential visits.

- Our first U.S. president to visit was Theodore Roosevelt, who came in 1905.
- President-elect William Taft came to Georgia Tech in 1909.
- President Franklin D. Roosevelt spoke to a crowd of 50,000 at Grant Field in 1935.
- President and Georgia Tech alumnus Jimmy Carter came on two official visits while serving as president.
- President Bill Clinton came for the Olympics in 1996, and
- President George W. Bush came in 2002.

President Obama's visit provides yet another opportunity to place Georgia Tech, our outstanding students, faculty, staff, and programs in the national spotlight. We are

proud of our Institute, and are committed to a legacy of excellence. In your work on the SACS COC team, you are partnering with us in that pursuit of ongoing excellence.

The reaffirmation process provides an opportunity for reflection, analysis, and collaborative forward thinking. As you know the SACS process has taken 18 months, including the Compliance Report, the Focused report and the Quality Enhancement Plan.

We have engaged faculty from various disciplines, along with staff and students in the development of our new QEP. We believe that Serve-Learn-Sustain will not only improve the student learning experience but also bring renewed meaning to the Georgia Tech motto: Progress and Service. Beril Toktay and Ellen Zegura will provide a detailed overview of our QEP.

As you know, the focus areas from our last QEP were global education and undergraduate research. Today, almost half of all Georgia Tech students have a study or work abroad experience and participate in undergraduate research before graduation. We have every confidence that Serve-Learn-Sustain will transform the student learning experience in the same way that our QEP from ten years ago has done.

Again, on behalf of the entire Georgia Tech community, thank you for your time and your commitment to helping ensure that America's colleges are the best in the world.